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SUBJECT Defenses in Kwangtung Coastal Area

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1. The Chinese Communists have developed the islands of Wanshanwei (南汕尾), Wanshan and Tankan (114-06, 22-02) into strong front-line defenses in order to control coastal communication at Lingtingyang (113-44, 22-24) and Chiuchowyang (113-36, 22-14).
2. There are gun positions with one or two artillery companies and from two to four artillery pieces at every possible landing harbor in Huiyang (114-26, 23-05) and Paolan (113-56, 22-32). The coastal garrison headquarters is at Aot'ou (114-32, 22-43).
3. There is a customs establishment at Mahuan (馬寬) on Sanmen Island (113-58, 22-03). The harbor is a good typhoon shelter and warship anchorage. There are 500 inhabitants on Sanmen and Peik'ou who cultivate 100 arable acres and have sufficient fresh water. An artillery company of the 4 Field Army with three artillery pieces maintains close liaison with Ching'ou (113-22, 22-26), Nienshan (捻山), Hsiayang (響嶼), Aot'ou, Tungchung (東仲) and Nsichung (西中) to prevent landings.
4. The Tankan Islands are 10 miles long and have a population of 400 at T'oumen (頭門). These islands are covered with forests and have enough fresh water, but provide no shelter from typhoons. One company of a 4 Field Army artillery unit is stationed on the islands with two long-range artillery pieces controlling the international sea routes.
5. Wanshanwei Island has 400 inhabitants, plenty of hilly, arable land and sufficient fresh water. There is no typhoon shelter, however. The Wanshan Patrol and Defense Command has one artillery battalion, 10 artillery pieces and from 20 to 30 small warships. This unit and those from the Inner and Outer Lingting Islands, Tungao and Ch'iao comprise the garrison of the Pearl River Estuary.
6. Outer Lingting has a population of 70, a small typhoon shelter, 60 artillerymen, 2 artillery pieces and an insufficient supply of fresh water. It serves as a screen for Wanshanwei.

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7. Inner Lingting has a population of 400 and sufficient fresh water, but there is no typhoon shelter. One artillery company of the 4 Field Army with four artillery pieces is stationed on the island. Both Inner Lingting and Ch'iao are important points for control of the Pearl River Estuary. Ch'iao Island has 100 inhabitants and 80 artillerymen with two artillery pieces.
8. Tungao Island has a population of 100 and a harbor sheltered from typhoons which provides good anchorage for warships. The Communists had a marine training base here at one time. It is a good site for naval training and was a naval anchorage during the Japanese occupation.
9. Tawanshan Island, which screens Tungao Island, has a population of 600 and one artillery company with four artillery pieces.
10. The Greater and Lesser Hengch'ia (橫琴) Islands, close to Chungshan on the mainland, have 300 inhabitants. These islands are the headquarters of the Kwangtung-Kwangsi Column, which has one artillery company with 2 artillery pieces stationed on the islands.
11. Santsao Island, with 700 inhabitants, has one artillery battalion with 10 artillery pieces and one battalion of the Kwangtung-Kwangsi Column. There is a large airfield here, but there are no good harbors because of reefs and there is no typhoon shelter.
12. Paolan Island (113-14, 21-56), with a population of 600, has three harbors which provide anchorage for warships. A marine training base and a naval base protected by heavy artillery units are also on Santsao. Soviet advisers are planning to build up the island in order to guard the entrance to Yamenk'ou (113-04, 22-14) which leads to Hsinhui (113-06, 22-34) and Kengmoon.
13. Troops stationed on all the coastal islands total one regiment and two companies of artillery of the 4 Field Army and one artillery regiment of the Kwangtung-Kwangsi Column. There is also a marine commando corps of one regiment and one infantry battalion. There are 40 small gunboats and motorboats. Island defense works, except those on Tungao and Santsao, have steel beam and concrete construction.
14. The following units of the Kwangtung-Kwangsi Column are stationed in the Pearl River Delta area:
 - a. The 1 Regiment, commanded by HUANG Chiang-n'ing (黃江平), is in the border area between Chungshan (113-22, 22-32) and Shunde (113-16, 22-50).
 - b. The 2 Regiment, commanded by HUANG Pu-te (黃布德), garrisons Yinhang (銀坑), Chihjenshih (伙人石), Hanchai, Ts'ui-wei (113-30, 22-16) and Ch'ien-shan (113-32, 22-14).
 - c. The 3 Regiment, commanded by TS'AO Ping-ven (曹炳文) is stationed at T'angchiaowan (唐家灣), Hengmen (橫門) and Chihchu Island (113-52, 22-06).
 - d. The 5 Regiment, commanded by LIU P'ei (劉沛), is garrisoning T'owmen, Great and Little Lin (霞) and Santsao.

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e. A special battalion is garrisoning Great and Little Wanshan Islands, Outer Lingting and Wanshanwei.

f. A special battalion and a machine gun battalion are stationed at Sherwan (113-22, 22-22), Changchi (龍溪) and Ch'angchou (113-35, 23-34).

15. The Pearl River Defense Command has sent a gunboat to supplement defenses in the Wanshan area.

16. An artillery battalion of the Kuangtung-Kwangsi Column mans the following island fortifications, on which construction was begun in August 1950 under the supervision of Pao-yu-fu-lan, a Soviet engineer:

a. Two long-range guns on a small hill opposite Wanshanwei.

b. Two long-range guns on a hillside on Santsoo Island.

c. An underground hangar at Santsoo which has a capacity of 30 planes.

d. Two long-range guns on each of the following islands: Great Wanshan, Wanshanwei, Outer Lingting and Chihchi.

e. Four long-range field guns on Tungao Island with reinforced concrete emplacements.

17. On 15 April 600 fully-equipped infantrymen of the 4 Field Army arrived at Tsangmut'ou from Canton. They immediately boarded trucks and proceeded to Tanshui (114-28, 22-47) via Chenchiang.

18. From 15 to 17 April 20 boats arrived at Huiyang from Canton loaded with 3,000 men and supplies, 70 artillery pieces and 100 animals. They were from the 47 Army, 4 Field Army, and were commanded by LI Shih (李師). Upon arriving at Huiyang, they boarded junks which were towed by motor boat to Tanshui and Aot'ou by way of the West River. Some proceeded by highway to the coastal area near Wenshan.

19. Three hundred men of an artillery unit took the highway bus from Canton via Polo to Huiyang on 17 April. On 18 April, ten Japanese spent the night in Chungshan Park, Huiyang, and left for Pingshan the next day.

20. In mid-April Nationalist planes often reconnoitered the Canton-Shench'uan Railroad. Anti-aircraft gun positions, pillboxes and air-raid sirens have been placed near the Shihlung railroad bridge by the 132 Division, 44 Army, 4 Field Army. Boats are not permitted to run alongside this bridge after 9:00 p.m. Violators are subject to seizure.

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